

Security Information

26 October 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: SIE-5: Soviet Air Defense Capabilities 1952-54

BACKGROUND

1. Initiation of SIE-5 was approved by the IAC on 1 November 1952 as an examination of a critically important subject on which much new evidence was available.
2. Chiefly because of differences of opinion between the Air Force and other participants, particularly Navy and G/CI, meetings on this paper have been numerous, long and protracted.
3. When several meetings had been held and differences were still unresolved, and because of the technical nature of the evidence, two eminent scientists* were associated with the Board as ad interim Board members. A third scientist served as consultant.** This was done with advance notice to and with the approval of the IAC agencies.

SUBSTANCE

4. The Board and all IAC agencies, except the Air Force, have reached agreement on the present text, and believe that the weight of present evidence is adequate to sustain all the estimates in the paper.
5. The DI/USAF, while not dissenting from the paper, "is concerned by the several occasions in this estimate where meager evidence has been used to establish a judgment without, in his opinion, giving sufficient weight to substantial opposing evidence." (See DI/USAF statement attached for his remarks in full.)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That SIS-5 be approved as drafted, with an appended Air Force comment;
- b. That the estimate include appropriate cross-references to the Appendices; and,
- c. That the three Appendices be published under separate cover as approved IAC papers.

SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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Distribution:

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